Segregation - 1933

California

SEGREGATION ORDINANCE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

DECISION KILLS "LILY WHITE" NEIGHBORHOODS AND RACE-ZONES

Judge Rules In Favor of "Negro Occupancy"

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Oct. 12.—The Supreme Court of this state handed down a sweeping decision Monday which vitally concerns colored citizens and interests property holders generally. The matter has to do with the Oswald Home Tract, which lies between 45th and 48th and from San Pedro to Main streets. For sixteeny ears this district has been in litigation.

In 1917 Homer Garrott, brother to Dr. A. C. Garrott, prominent local dentist, bought a piece of property within the confines of the Oswald Home Tract, but when he proceeded to move into the same he was confronted with an old restriction clause that forbade the occupancy of Negroes in said tract. At that time it was contended that even the sale of the property to Negroes was invalid. This contention was sustained by the lower court. Willis O. Tyler, attorney for Mr. Garrott, protested vigorously and appealed to the State Supreme Court and in 1919 the Supreme Court decided that Negroes had the right to buy property wherever and whenever they pleased but the clause restricting occupancy was upheld.

Since 1919 there have been fifteen or more so-called test cases brought by colored people contending that they should have the right to live wherever they owned property.

About five or six years ago in a ower court Miss Frances Henderson successfully defended for herself and mother the right to live n property which she had purchased at 230 East 45th street. This enraged the whole neighborhood of whites within the tract and an organization was formed to ight against the threatened invasion of Negroes into the erstwhile 'Lily White" neighborhood. Subsequently a new and more determined effort was made to exclude Miss Henderson and all other blacks from the tract. The case finally was brought before Judge Harry Hollger, then sitting in the Superior Court who ruled in favor of Negro occupancy. This decision was appealed to the Supreme Court of the State and for three years both sides have been protesting the tardy progress made in the case. For quite some time the matter seemed to be snarled in red tape, with every prospect that the entire tract would be populated by colored before a final decision was rendered. Prominent among those now residing in this area are Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Holley, Miss Frances Henderson and mother, Mrs. Sinclair White-Murdock and parents, Dr. and Mrs. Jack Smitherman, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Miller and Mr. and Mrs. J. Otis Banks.

Segregation - 1933

Colorado.

SEGREGATION IN HOUSING ACUTE; AIR CONDITIONS

Courier 12-16-33

Pittsburgh Pa.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Negroes are being denied a fair share of jobs on Boulder Dam by one man who believes in jim crowism and who calls all Negroes "darkies," it was revealed this week when a report was received by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from Leland S. Hawkins, president of the San Francisco branch, who made a personal investigation at Las Vegas, Nevada and Boulder City and the dam.

The man is Frank T. Crowe general superintendent of the Six Companies, Inc., which hires most of the men on the dam. Mr. Hawkins' report quotes him as saying:

"I am going to put darkies to work as jobs become available where they can be isolated and do not come in contact with white men.

"Darkies are fine laborers, especially when they have a darky singing boss.

"Darkies have worked on the river gang and have had their own dormitory.

"I played football at Hanford against a burly darky on the Andover team." (Crowe was referring here to the late William C. Matthews, former assistant attorney general of the United States).

Mr. Hawkins' report stated further:

"The conversation was extremely cordial, but Mr. Crowe expressed strong conviction for segregation, discrimination and humiliation of all Negroes employed at the dam as a precaution to protect them from the southern white employes. He did not use the word 'nigger,' usually 'darky,' 'colored' or 'Negro' and he regretted his colored cook had the day off as he was sure she could give much information about the good times in Las Vegas."

Everything Separate

The largest number of Negroes ever employed on the dam was 30, between August 18 and November 15, 1932. The total payroll averaged $20,000 a day, but the Negro payroll was only $122.80 a day. At present only 12 or 14 Negroes are employed and their payroll is not over $56 a day. On November 7th a total of 4,100 men were working for all companies at the dam, with the Six Companies, Inc., having 3,289 of these on its payroll alone. Negroes lived in the River camp at the dam from August 13, 1932 to March 15, 1933 in the separate dormitory, with separate tables in the mess hall and separate toilets. They were not allowed to drink from the regular fountain, but had their water brought to them in water bags. They had a separate truck to haul them to work, a separate pool table in the recreation room. Negroes are permitted to enter Boulder City, the government-built town, but none lives there although "arrangements" are being made to have them live there.

Boulder dam was started in March, 1931. The government is spending $165,000,000 on the dam, out of taxes from all the people. Boulder City was built by the government at a cost of $2,000,000 to be a model city for the employes at the dam. The whole project is under the supervision of the department of the interior of which Secretary Harold L. Ickes is the head.

Segregation - 1933

Georgia

Racial Segregation Question in Court

ATLANTA, Feb. 6 (AP)—William Hunter, Negro, Monday brought the question of the right of the city to segregate white and Negro residential sections into court again with a request for a writ of mandamus to compel the city clerk to issue him a moving license.

Hunter lives on Pine street but recently purchased property on Linden avenue. A city ordinance permits the clerk to refuse moving licenses in case where the applicant is believed to be of undesirable character. Hunter, in his petition, claims that his application was turned down because of racial considerations.

Judge E. E. Pomeroy in superior court made the petition returnable Feb. 18.

Dislikes Proposal to Segregate Race in Small Community

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 3.—The retirement of Clark Howell Foreman of Atlanta, Ga., nephew of Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, as adviser on the economic welfare of Race Americans to the secretary of the interior is asked in letters sent to President Roosevelt and to Secretary of the Interior Ickes by the National Equal Rights league.

The letters charge Mr. Foreman with publicly announcing as his program the settling of the Race people in exclusively Race communities the building of which is to be by Race labor and financed by the public works funds of the federal government. This, the league objects to, as wholesale official segregation.

Oppose Foreman's Proposal

The league declares it to be abnormal and unfair to place the industrial rights of Race citizens in the hands of a white adviser, especially one of southern birth, rearing and traditions, and says that Mr. Foreman's own proposition of self-sufficient Race communities on the "homestead subsistence plan" because he is "sick and tired of complaining of Race discrimination" at the various government departments in the nation's reconstruction shows him to be unfitted for and unequal to the job.

Objecting vigorously to isolation under the new deal and the taking control of industry by the government when all the other racial strains are being brought into closer fellowship and co-operation, an appeal is made for individual inclusion of all in the governments recovery program without distinction of race.

The Foreman proposal of racial colonization is called re-enslavement and exiling and remanding to pioneer conditions, and warns of danger to liberty under the control of industry by the federal government.

In conclusion the president is asked to issue a proclamation calling upon industry not to deny work because of color.

The letters are signed by M. W. Spencer, president, and William Monroe Trotter, secretary.

Segregation – 1933

CHICAGO JUDGE UPHOLDS RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION

Ruling Handed Down By Judge Gentzel Sustaining Move of White Property Owners To Exclude Negro.

CHICAGO, August 10—The long, slimy tenacles of the octopus of Jim Crowism stretched out over Chicago, the World's Fair city, Thursday. Judge Robert E. Gentzel, white, of the Superior court, handed down a decision Thursday sustaining the contentions of a white property-owners clique to exclude colored citizens from their neighborhood whenever they chose.

The court action was resultant of a suit filed against Dr. James L. Hall, prominent physician here, when he moved his family into the Stony Island district, on the far southside of Chicago.

Judge Gentzel ruled that the colored family must move. The case will be appealed to the Illinois Supreme court and later to the United States Supreme court if the decision of the lower court is upheld in Illinois. This shocking verdict rendered by the judge is reported to be the first of its kind in the state.

Dr. Hall is a major in the Illinois National Guard and a veteran of the World war.

RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION IN CHICAGO

Colored Family Ordered to Move from Stony Island District

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Segregation - 1933

Indiana

OPPOSITION BY NEGROES AND WHITES TO HOUSING PROJECT CAUSES 50 PCT. LOSS TO GROUP

Records 11-4-33

Indianapolis, Ind.

It remains only for private citizens of Indianapolis, both white and colored, to increase the volume of their approval if they desire to cinch final governmental approval of the proposed $5,000,000 housing project, officials at Washington indicated late Wednesday afternoon in telephonic conversations of members of the local committee who are leading the slum-clearance project.

"Despite a terrific drive by misguided opposition, Indianapolis will receive the advantages of the proposed developments provided interested citizens, wide awake to the needs of their community will communicate their approval to officials of the federal housing bureau at once". Mr. Dunning, assistant director said. Whereupon members of the local committee are intensifying a campaign urging every Indianapolis citizen favorable to the project to so inform the government at once.

Communications should be signed and addressed to the Community Housing corporation, 607 Peoples State Bank building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Opposition of groups of Negroes and whites to the original plan to construct the new low cost housing units in an entirely Negro section has caused it to go abandoned entailing a loss to the City's Negro population. Half of the principal sum must be used committee members were instructed by officils of the bureau, in construction of units to house white people. Many Negro leaders deny that the Colored people of this city are opposed to the project or have ever been. They are preponderately in accord, the leaders insist.

One reason advanced for the change in plans was that white realtors told Washington officials that Negroes could not pay the suggested rental of $11.00 to $30.00 per month.

"If Indianapolis wants that development, it must get behind it at once", Harold Ickes, secretary of the Interior said, Thursday.

The committee will seek a further extension, if necessary from the deadline date November seventh.

Segregation – 1933.

Maryland

PURNELL WON'T MOVE, HE TELLS WHITE ROWDIES

Baltimore

Ofay 'Deputy Sheriff' Tried to Intimidate Him, He Tells Afro.

MOONEY PLEDGES HIM PROTECTION

Police, However, Fail to Nab Hoodlums.

BALTIMORE, Md.—

"I will move from this house only when it is blown up," John Purnell told a white man who represented himself as a deputy sheriff, he informed the AFRO-AMERICAN, Saturday.

Friday night white hoodlums hurled a barrage of bricks and stones through two windows of the home, smashing glassware and demolishing the front door in an effort to drive him out of the block. Purnell, his wife and six children, had moved into the house at 1424 Eden Street a few days ago. They were the first colored family to move in this block, police say.

Police Guard

Captain Thomas Mooney has placed a guard about the place and stated that Purnell would be protected.

The family, which lived just two blocks away on the same street, moved into the 1400 block last Thursday. Early that evening whites made their first attack by hurling stones against the building. On the following morning a white man, who stated that he lived at 1428 N. Eden Street, and that he was a deputy sheriff, came to the Purnell house door and asked him what he intended to do and when he intended to move. It was then that Purnell informed the white man that he would not move unless the house was blown down.

The man stated, Purnell said, that he would attend to that.

Use Ammonia

In their effort to drive the family out that night, the whites used sticks, bottles of ammonia and bricks. Purnell had gone to work and the wife and children were alone huddled in the rear of the building. A half hour following the bombardment, Mrs. Purnell ventured out to report the matter to police.

Although many such bombings have taken place in the Northeastern district, none of the culprits have ever been arrested. Police officers have never been able to apprehend any of the hoodlums.

Early Saturday morning while an AFRO-AMERICAN reporter was at the house, a white woman looking out of a second-story window of 1432 N. Eden Street, told Sergeant Nerun Gunther of the Northeastern district, that she did not hear the excitement the night before or she would have helped out.

Following this statement the sergeant ordered the patrolmen who were guarding the house away. One was later returned to the scene to remain on guard.

The children of the couple are Mary, 11, John, 9, Raymond, 7, Margaret, 6, Evelyn, 3, and Ruth, 2 years of age. The four elder children attend school.

Segregation-1933

Columbia, S. C. State
October 24, 1933

"No Negroes Wanted."

Unexpected ~~things~~ happen in unexpected places. Our attention is at the moment focused on Springfield, in dear old Massachusetts.

It seems that recently Bessie and Frank Stewart, brother and sister, middle-aged and undoubtedly respectable Negroes, purchased a home, after extended negotiations, on Melrose street in Springfield. The woman had for many years worked as a trained nurse and the man had been for many years employed with the Y. M. C. A. They had saved money and were going to live quietly and at ease.

The house was a rather poor affair but they had it repaired, modernized and the grounds improved.

And then came eighty white residents of Melrose and other adjacent streets, signing a protest to city council against the occupancy of the house by Negroes, and petitioning for relief. They pray council that "our grievances be eliminated." "Our objections," says the petition, "are based ons lowering of property value and the loss that will ensue, together with other very obvious reasons. We, as taxpayers and voters, respectfully ask the board of aldermen for the elimination of our grievances. We also ask that a revaluation be made of our properties and that there be an abatement of our taxes."

"Why," asked Bessie Stewart, "didn't some one object when they knew we were making negotiations? We had no particular wish to live on that street. We have no desire to mingle socially with our neighbors. We bought the house for cash and paid off the mortgage. If the residents of the section so wish they can buy the house for cost, plus the improvements." Dignified and more than reasonable, we think.

While the Springfield newspapers are careful to refer to the Negroes as "Miss Stewart and Mr. Stewart," we observe none hurrying to their defense. Of course the board of aldermen cannot molest them. It seems extraordinary that eighty white citizens of Massachusetts could have imagined council could "eliminate their grievances." But the Negroes have had to employ a lawyer to represent them and the heading on a newspaper report of the case says: "City council expected to take no immediate action on the petition." Why keep those Negroes in suspense? Assuredly, in the very heart of Massachusetts, there should be no suspense for them! Are they not also "taxpayers and voters?"

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Segregation - 1933

New Jersey.

LAWNSIDE, N. J., IN BITTER RACE WAR

Afro-American

Whites Ask State to Segregate Their Section. 1-28-33

NO ARRESTS IN BURNING CROSS

Baltimore, Md.

Ku Klux Thought Behind Jim Crow Plan.

LAWNSIDE, N.J. — Efforts of whites to keep the cauldron of race prejudice boiling in this little township officered by colored citizens is looked upon with varying degree of anger, indifference and resentment, it developed this week.

Following quickly on the heels of the cross burning two weeks ago, residents of Woodcrest, a small section of Lawnside inhabited by only three dozen white families, sought to have introduced a bill in the state assembly Monday night to split Lawnside up and create a separate all white borough to be named Woodcrest Heights.

Lawnside leaders, including Mayor Brown and Horace Bryant, Sr., opined over the week-end that the bill had little chance of passing.

The finger of suspicion in the cross burning points in the direction of Woodcrest residents. For a number of years this angle of Lawnside has been up in arms over the fact that the law required them to send their children to Lawnside public schools where they would be taught by colored teachers and sit with colored pupils.

Woodcrest refused to send their children here, and instead paid at first to send them to school in neighboring white towns.

Later on, becoming financially unable to do this, they violated the law and set up a school of their own in the Woodcrest Presbyterian Chapel; 34 white pupils attend this school. It has three white teachers.

Support of the school has come from Odd Fellow lodges in Haddonfield and Gloucester. There is little doubt that the well organized South Jersey Ku Klux Klan has aided the movement. The cross-burning appeared to be a final protest that the thirty some white families of Lawnside would not send their children to a Negro school.

The white families have formed the Agenda Civic Association. Officers of the association are Warren A. Hawthorne, president; Elwood Gamewell, vice-president; and Dorothy Hoopes, treasurer. This association is sponsoring the bill at Trenton.

The area of the new borough they desire includes the properties of William Benson and Alfred S. Wright, in Lawnside, as well as the properties of a half dozen white people. They would draw a careful line in and around their new borough so as to carefully exclude any Negro residents.

ASK SEPARATE TOWN FROM COLORED GROUP

Chicago

TRENTON, N. J., Mar. 9 — The minority of white residents of Lawnside want a seperate city created to set them off from the colored inhabitants. A bill for a new municipality was the subject of a public hearing before the Legislature's Committee on Municipal Affairs Monday. Unless the measure is amended to provide a referendum, committee members expressed doubt they would report it.

3-10-33

There are about 1,500 inhabitants of Lawnside, all but thirty-nine of whom are Negroes. All but two of the local officials and all of the eight teachers in the school there also are Negroes.

The white residents would form a community to be known as Borough of Woodcrest Heights and told the committee some of their number had agreed to serve as officials for a dollar a year.

39 Whites in Colored Town of 1,500 Want Separation

Pittsburgh Courier

TRENTON, N.J.—A bill to authorize a new municipality for the benefit of white residents of Lawnside was the subject of a public hearing before the Legislature's Committee on Municipal Affairs, March 6. Unless the measure is amended to provide a referendum, committee members expressed doubt that they would report it.

There are about 1,500 inhabitants of Lawnside, of whom only thirty-nine are white. All but two of the local officials and all of the eight teachers in the school there are colored.

The white residents would form a community to be known as Borough of Woodcrest Heights and told the committee some of their number had agreed to serve as officials for a dollar a year.

Poor white spokesemen showed up badly against the polished speakers of colored Lawnside.

Poor white spokesmen showed up badly against the polished speakers of colored Lawnside.

Horace Bryant, Sr., told the committee:

"The sole motive for the introduction of this bill," he declared, "is prejudice. It is true that Center Township, when it was split up into boroughs of which Lawnside is one, did not permit Lawnside to hold a referendum on the matter. Lawnside was wished on us. But this is no reason why Woodcrest should be permitted to secede without all of Lawnside voting on the matter.

"This bil lis a mere repetition of the other vicious bill which made a borough of Lawnside," he added. Bryant pointed out that Lawnside had exercised no prejudice in asking the white citizens to take an active part in the government. He said John Smith, a white man, had been once named and elected to Lawnside Council and that Herbert Hookes, another white man, had been appointed, then elected, to the Lawnside Board of Education. "If these people had used their best brain," he shouted, "there would be no reason for this condition.

"They have sought to intimidate us," he went on. "They have burned flaming crosses in Lawnside in order to scare us. But no crosses can frighten Lawnside. And we're serving notice on you now—don't burn any more crosses in Lawnside—"

"No threats," interrupted Senator Young genially, while the now packed chamber silently applauded Bryant's attack.

Assemblyman J. Mercer Burrell said, to create a borough for the benefit of 16 children amounted to undesired minority rule and prejudice was the only argument they used.

Segregation - 1933

New York.

Jim Crowers Lose Tilt With Actress

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Adelaide Hall, the musical comedy star, won a long fight recently to live in the exclusive white Kilmer Rd., Larchmont, N. Y., section when a settlement of a suit was effected Wednesday, last week, which she had brought against Lawrence P. Mincey, white real estate agent.

This concluded one of the most courageous fights ever staged by a member of the Race for the right as a citizen to live in a section and neighborhood commensurate with their success and financial standing and taste.

When the beautiful star of "Blackbirds" moved into the lovely house on the street named after the late poet, Joyce Kilmer, author of "Trees," there was great hue and cry that was publicized all over the country. This was caused by the opposition that she met with.

When in court she defended her stand and self-respect by stating that she was one of the "first Americans," that is having in her veins the bloods of Race men who had helped to build the nation, contributed to its culture materially, and also of the Shinnecock Indians, the original "Americans." She scored with both white and Race thinkers.

Sues Realtor Dealer

Two months ago, however, it was revealed that her own rank of supporters, namely Lawrence P. Mincey the white realtor through whom she was purchasing the house, had not turned all the payments over to the owners. Miss Hall (who is Mrs Bert Hicks in private life) brought suit.

The stage star said that she paid Mincey $4,000 besides the purchase price to buy her a house in Larchmont. She feared to try to obtain the title herself, she said, because of a possible refusal to sell to one of her race. Afterward, she charged Mincey failed to turn over the property. The case was before the supreme court and Justice Frederick P. Close of White Plains was on the bench.

Mincey, the defendant, it was brought out in the case, represented himself as a bona fide attorney, but it was shown that he had been disbarred several years ago. He was candidate for an office in one of the recent elections.

Court proceedings ended Wednesday, however, when Mincey deeded over the property.

Miss Hall is heading the "Stormy Weather" edition of the Cotton Club revue and is playing Cedar Rapids, Iowa. this week.

Segregation - 1933.

ZONING BOARD HEARS SEGREGATION DEBATE BETWEEN WARRING FACTIONS IN SECOND WARD

WHITES SEEK TO PLACE PROPERTY RIGHTS OVER AND ABOVE HUMAN RIGHTS

Cappy Reeves Talks Violence While Burnes Wants Negro Ward Defined

Fully 300 white and colored citizens jammed and packed the council chamber Wednesday at twelve o'clock to hear oral arguments before the zoning board regarding residential segregation.

Protest Filed

A formal protest, signed by Attorney Ernest Richards and Editor Roscoe Dunjee, representing the Oklahoma City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the special citizens committee designated by the various organized groups of the city, was filed immediately following the opening of the hearing.

One Hour Argument

Upon agreement by both sides, thirty minutes were devoted to a discussion of the issue by the East Side Civic League and the N. A. A. C. P. group, Capp Jefferson, who said he represented a large group of property owners, and J. I. Whilden, Communist agitator, also made talks in opposition to the proposed ordinance to segregate Negroes.

Wants Negro Ward

Elijah J. Burns, who futilly sought Monday to hold a meeting to endorse plans of the East Side Civic League, presented a proposal to rezone the east side, creating a Negro ward. Burns told the zoning commission that he was joined in the proposal by Dr. A. P. Bethel. Bethel denied that he had anything to do with the proposal when asked the direct question before the zoning commission, but later made a short talk in which he said he was neutral, that he did not take sides with those for segregation or those against it. The Burns proposal, signed solely by himself, defines definite lines in which he would compel Negroes to live.

Dunjee Talks

Announcing that he not only represented the organizations named, but every Negro in Oklahoma City, Editor Roscoe Dunjee opened the arguments before the commission. Both sides were given opening statements and rebuttal.

"The only question here is whether human rights are to be surrendered to property rights," said Editor Dunjee. "These white citizens come in here and tell you that their property values have been depreciated. They seek to place a dollar mark up in front of you and with it obliterate fundamental citizenship rights of black folk, fundamental in our constitution and in the realm of morals."

According To Law

"I have been much heartened since I entered this chamber because I saw you dispose of another matter, and your chairman said he was going to be guided by the spirit and the language of the written law. If you are going to adjudicate this issue upon a basis of the law, I know what your decision is now. For the law says plainly in the case of Buchanan vs. Warley that you cannot do the thing proposed here.

"Once before, several years ago, the late E. J. Giddings inveighed the city into doing the very same thing which you are now asked to do. The Negroes of this city were forced to spend more than $1,000 to have Judge Cottrell tell you that you cannot evade the intent and purpose of the federal constitution. Judge Cottrell said that the subterfuge and artifice proposed sought to do an unconstitutional thing."

Editor Dunjee then went off into a discussion of the disposition of many people now to disregard and violate written law. "Where have integrity and honor gone?" he asked. "We know what the law intends we shall not do, but we meet here to find a way around the law, and men are here attempting this who are sworn to uphold the law and the constitution."

Radicalism

Taking a dig at the East Side Civic League, whose members are always holding him up as a radical, Dunjee said: "There is not a Negro in Oklahoma City who spends more of his time working for interracial accord than I do. I want to live in peace with our white and colored citizens. I preach candor and reason in all matters; I believe always in orderly processes.

"But I do not believe in peace at any price. I do not think I should have to surrender my manhood and property rights in order to get along with anybody. If it is radical to demand every right to which I am entitled under the constitution, then call me radical. Oklahoma and Oklahoma City's white citizens ought to submit to the law which white folks made or they ought to secede from the Union and make special laws governing Negroes who live within their jurisdiction."

"Some Of The Negroes"

Thursday morning's Oklahoman, in discussing the residential segregation issue, states that "some of the Negroes are understood to favor the zoning plan."

This writer thought he made it plain to the planning commission Wednesday that there was not a property owning Negro in Oklahoma City who supported any such notion, and we proved conclusively in open meeting that only one Negro, who did not own a foot of real estate in the city, was the proponent of such an idea. Of course we understand that E. J. Burnes, who presented the proposal to create a Negro zone, said that Dr. A. P. Bethel joined with him in the proposal, but when we bounced a direct question on the head of Dr. Bethel in the council chamber, he denied Burnes' statement—with reservations.

Although Dr. Bethel signed the statement sent to Mayor Blinn, condemning a segregation line, he stated to the planning board Wednesday that he was neutral — taking neither side. This, of course, is not the position he has hitherto taken in the meetings held in Dr. Whitby's office. Dr. Bethel said then he felt the committee should meet with the whites, but that he thought we ought to meet and tell them we were opposed to segregation. His statement in the city hall Wednesday is a right-about face, in that he now says he is neutral on the subject.

Assuming that Elijah J. Burnes wants segregation and that Dr. Bethel does not care what happens, since that is the position of a neutral, we wonder just who else the East Side Civic League can point to as "some of the Negroes understood to favor a zoning law."

As a representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Citizens Committee, this writer wants to say that the Negroes of this city are a unit in opposition to any segregation barriers being erected. The action of the Negroes in the Fairgrounds in breaking up the meeting held by E. J. Burnes Monday is indicatory of the general attitude. And when we say "breaking up" we do not mean that E. J. Burnes' meeting was a scene of violence. We mean simply that more than 35 law-abiding citizens went to the address where the meeting was held and informed him that none of them would have anything to do with his infamous proposal. To a man, and including the secretary Burnes selected, they walked out of the meeting.

What we are seeking to do is to stop this publicity which attempts to convey the thought that there is division among Negroes on this subject, and that there is considerable sentiment among them to accept a segregation line. As for Dr. Bethel, we believe that he should explain to the Citizens Committee which he several weeks ago conferred with, as to why and when he was converted into a neutral.

Ain't This Funny

Figures compiled by the federal census of 1930 show that there are living in the 1st ward in Oklahoma City 47,702 white people and 1,004 Negroes. The 1st ward is located in the north section and every foot of property is owned by white people. It is in this section that the richest business men and the wealthy millionaire class reside.

If there is not a natural inclination among white people to have Negroes live in close proximity to their living quarters, why is it that the richest white people in this city have voluntarily made provision for Negroes to reside on the rear end of their lots, and in many instances, in the rear room of their homes?

In many instances in the 1st ward, one will find whites who do not even employ the Negroes who live up over the garage on the alley behind their residences. They deliberately rent these quarters to Negroes for the dollars and cents which they receive monthly, or weekly as the case may be. In this way many of the wives of rich men get their pin money.

Although this is true there is not a Negro in Oklahoma City who could buy a foot of land or rent a home in his own right on the street front in the 1st ward. The moment he were to attempt any such move he would be pronounced as out of his place, and forcing himself on white people. Somehow the servant class, acting in the capacity of servant, does not irritate white people, but when they move up on the main street as independent property owning citizens they are immediately objectionable.

According to the federal census there are 1,004 Negroes intermingling with the whites every day in the calendar year in the heart of the 1st ward. It puts to shame the argument made by the whites in the 2nd ward who aver that they seriously object to Negroes being in their section. As a matter of fact, the wife of one of Oklahoma's outstanding bankers, who resides in the north end of the 2nd ward, has permitted her Negro maid and husband to live up over her garage.

These facts presented only serve to emphasize what every sane white and black person knows. Segregation laws were not created to separate Negroes from white people. The underlying purpose of such infamous statutes is to lower the citizenship status of black people, and is basic in the idea that one human being is inferior to another.

A Negro girl can sit in the white section of the street car if she is holding the white woman's baby. The Negro chauffeur rides beside the millionaire's wife in the Packard, if he is acting as chauffeur. The entire white family sit down to the table and ravenously devour the food when they know the blackest woman in town has had her hands all over every morsel they eat, while preparing it; and, if mother gets ill, the white child is placed at a black mammy's breast. In Dallas the other night a Negro youth shot a white policeman, who was attempting to intimidate the lad and drive him away from his sweetheart, who lives up in white servant quarters. Every Negro in Dallas knows that the white policeman was a rival of the Negro boy for the Negro girl's affections.

She's a funny world. Every mulatto Negro in this country belies the white man's belief in segregation. Social equality is present always when a male develops sex interest in a female of another race. George Washington, the daddy of the nation, had mulatto children, and yet the whites in the 2nd ward are afraid to live across the street from Oklahoma City's property-owning black citizens.

Fights Segregation

REV. LANE C. CLEAVES

"A rose by any other name would be just as sweet, just as segregation by any other artifice or title is abhorrent," said Rev. L. C. Cleaves, pastor of Cleaves Memorial C. M. E. church, Saturday during the course of a vigorous and militant address before the city council.

Rev. Cleaves, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P. committee, combined with the allied organizations, presented several speakers for the Negro viewpoint. The council after an hour's debate finally passed the pernicious ordinance.

Rev. Cleaves is the son of the late Bishop Cleaves, for whom the church his son now pastors was named. He is rapidly developing as one of the outstanding ministers of the C. M. E. connection.

NEGROES REFUSE TO ENTER CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD SET SEGREGATION BOUNDARIES IN CITY

Black Dispatch

LETTER FORWARDED MAYOR BLINN SETTING OUT CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL BODIES ASSEMBLED

Okla. City, Okla.

Fundamental Rights as Guaranteed by U. S Constitution To Be Fought For

6-1-33

Opposition to any form of segregation, or to a conference to discuss such a plan resulted from a meeting last Thursday, in which the heads of all of the Negro organizations in the city participated. The meeting was held in the chapel of the McKay Funeral Home.

Resolutions were adopted and signed, which were later sent to Mayor Blinn and copies also forwarded to each member of the city council.

"We are unable, after due deliberation, to see any constructive or mutual benefit in the proposed program," said the memorial in discussing the proposed segregation conference. "The legislative authority of this city is vested in the council. If that body now desires to enact an ordinance which contravenes principles already adjudicated by the Supreme Court of the United States, we do not feel called upon to render any degree of aid in such a movement," the document continued.

While the Negroes balked on the proposed conference, 15 whites who allege they represent the Eastside Civic League, made suggestion to the city council Wednesday, indicating that they desired the council to make Governor Murray's mythical segregation line permanent. The action of the Eastside Civic League Wednesday proves that the Negro leaders used extreme sense when they refused to meet to consider the unstitutional and unlawful views of the white organization.

Mayor Blinn is reported in the daily press is saying he will appoint his conference committee Wednesday. Since Negro leaders have refused to act, it will be impossible to secure any Negro having authority to speak except as an individual.

The crazy-quilt ghetto line defined by Governor Murray in his military order several weeks ago is the butt of mank jokes on the East Side. Most Negro leaders declare that when the showdown comes none of the councilmen will have anything officially to do with it.

The north boundary would zigzag from Second street and Walnut avenue northeast along Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth streets to Eastern avenue.

Below is published a copy of the resolutions fowarded to Mayor Blinn and signed by Negro civic leaders of the city.

"After the meeting of the City Council on Tuesday of this week the local press quoted you as stating that it was your intention to call together a committee, composed of white and Negro citizens for the purpose of discussing the recent segregation order issued by the Governor on May 1, 1933, in which it was attempted to define by executive proclamation, the limits within which Negroes of this city could maintain their residences. In your statement, it was indicated that yould summon bona fide representatives of organized civic groups.

Segregation – 1933

Oklahoma

. Assume Your Own Responsibility

Here's the meat in the cocoanut: Certain white citizens several years ago felt secure in the belief that living on Sixth street they could safely feel that Negroes would never expand their territory that far north. They, of course, made a bad guess. Negroes are now living on the same street. Black Dispatch

In order to discourage their white brethren down on Third and Fourth streets from selling their property to Negroes, these whites in the north section of the second ward beginning at Sixth street, put restriction clauses in their deeds, providing jointly with one another that this property would never be sold or rented to Negroes.

But the whites down on Third, Fourth and Fifth streets just as white folk do everywhere on earth, sold their property when the Negro offered them more than white people would pay them for the same property. Many of these whites who used to live on Third, Fourth and Fifth streets, are today living farther north in the second ward, in finer homes than those in which they used to live by reason of having sold their property for twice as much as it was worth. This is the awful price which Negroes always must pay for natural expansion. In fact any expansion which Negroes make in most American cities is an UNNATURAL expansion—unnatural in that they must pay unnatural, unreasonable prices for whites' old worn out, dilapidated homes, when finding new places to live.

There are a lot of things here in Oklahoma City for which the Negro does not want to assume responsibility. First, he does not want to assume responsibility for the white man's prejudice; second, he does not want to assume responsibility for the white man's selfishness and venality. If a white citizen voluntarily goes out and commits an act which later he finds injures himself, why should the Negro be brought into the arena and made to suffer for something for which he is in no wise responsible?

Take, for instance, the sale of the property by whites to Negroes extending from Third street to Sixth. There were no Negroes who held guns on white folk and made them sell this property. The transfer of this equity from whites to black hands was a free and voluntary act on the part of every white man who sold. He knew that he was driving a bargain, and they sould to blacks totally oblivious to the imaginary rights which white property owners assume they have on Sixth street.

Why did not the East Side Civic League bring these recaltrant whites into conference ten years ago and preach the gospel of segregation and lines? If, ten years ago, the East Side Civic League could have stamped out the venality and selfishness of the whites in the territory over which the Negroes have now expanded, there would be no need for Governor Murray's mythical line today. It appears to the Black Dispatch that the attention of the East Side Civic League should be given to unracially-minded white people —not Negroes.

In other words, if the whites were organized in Oklahoma City—if there was accord among them regarding a Negro ghetto, there would be no argument now. The Negro could not budge an inch in the purchase of property.

Prejudice entered restriction clauses in the deeds of the whites on Sixth street. The best definition for prejudice is "unreason." If the whites on East Sixth will substitute unreason with reason they will meet again, just as they did some ten years ago and jointly agree to take out of their deeds this un-American clause. Honest confession is good for the soul. Why not confess that a great mistake was made? Any character or restriction, regardless of whether it refers to race or not, is damaging to the value of property. The whites who wrote this restriction into their deeds were provincical. They do not know the history of all cities and communities. Few children live where their parents resided, when they grow up, and folk within the span of an individual existence are inclined to move. If prosperity comes they check out of the old neighborhood and move up or down the street.

If the membership of the East Side Civic League does not assume this position now, its sons and daughters will a generation later, do the job, but at great expense and difficulty. The time to correct this mistake is now, and the job does not belong to Negroes.

From its president on down, the membership of the East Side Civic League should keep in mind that this is a government of laws and not of men. We all should reach our conclusions based upon what the law is. The Negroes of Oklahoma City are content to abide by the mandates of the law—laws written by white men—laws which should be respected by white men.

OKLAHOMACITY OFFICIALS PASS ON J. C. ORDER

Journal & Guide Norfolk Va.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—(ANP)—The City council adroitly passed the buck last week on Governor Murray's proposed residential segregation plans for the municipality, when the matter was indefinitely disposed of by giving authority to Mayor Blinn to appoint an interracial committee to discuss the proposal. 6-3-33

It is known that the East Side Civic League is frantic and has already made appeals to General Barrett because of violations of the governor's order. Negroes have moved into property within the restricted zone at several points and some whites have moved into the "Negro territory" designated by the executive order.

William Oakley, the Negro who started the trouble when he moved into the 00 block on East 6th St., is still in the residence and L. H. Hood, who rented the property to Oakley, states that his renter has a year's lease on the property.

One city official stated that the passing on of the matter to an unofficial committee meant the dismissal of the entire matter by the governing agencies.

Pass Buck On Segregaton In Oklahoma City

Pittsburgh Courier

City Council Decides to Appoint Interracial Investigating Body

6-3-33

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., June—(A. N. P.)—The City council Tuesday afternoon adroitly passed the buck on Governor Murray's proposed segregation plans for the municipality, when the matter was indefinitely disposed of by giving authority to Mayor Blinn to appoint a committee, composed of black and white, to discuss the proposal.

In a packed council chamber, many of whom had gathered to listen to the oil extension argument scheduled for hearing, Mayor Blinn stated briefly to the councilmen that he had received a letter from Murray requesting that some action be taken to relieve strained conditions on the East side. Blinn stated that he gleaned the idea that the Governor wanted a committee appointed to study the matter and work out an adjustment.

"I move that a committee be appointed by the mayor, composed of level headed men of both the black and white races to study this problem and report to the planning commission," said W. A. Henderson, 2nd ward councilman. The motion was quickly seconded and passed unanimously.

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It Will Not Work

Journal & Guide

TRYING to keep Negroes from living in better homes and in more healthful residential districts (after everything that is done through Better Homes Week, Negro Health Week, Child Health Day, etc., to bring about these objectives), just does not, and will not, work. Either the law steps in to declare residential segregation unconstitutional, as the United States Supreme Court did in the Louisville case in 1917, and reaffirmed in the New Orleans case of 1927, or money-making real estate developers unite to render null and void whatever anti-Negro stipulations might have passed. Norfolk Va.

In recent weeks the Governor of Oklahoma, "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, has taken unto himself the power to set up certain boundaries beyond which the races shall not live. The City Council of Oklahoma City, passed the buck when the matter came to its attention, and gave the

mayor authority to refer the matter to an interracial committee. In the meantime, whites have moved into the "Negro territory," whenever they have wanted to, colored people have crossed over the imaginery line into the "white side" to live, and the man whose residence was contested, resulting in the Governor's edict, continues to occupy his house on the "white side" of Oklahoma City. The real estate men have not closed up office; these times especially will not allow them to pamper white Oklahoma City. 6-3-33

In Brooklyn, a deputy tax collector is worrying about what he calls a fall of property value because Negroes have increased in that New York borough, and he observes that "It is not like Harlem because in Manhattan, most of the Negroes live in a compact section in Harlem. Over here they have moved in everywhere and real estate values are dropping. They have taken over some of our best streets and best apartment houses. Houses that formerly sold for $14,000 they are getting for $7,500."

It is not quite true, of course, that Negroes buy houses more cheaply than other citizens. In fact the history of real estate expansion in New York records the exact opposite; but even if what makes the tax collector uneasy were true, he also knows, as the N. A. A. C. P. reminded him, that "it is not only expensive to make segregated areas by ordinance, but that the United States Supreme Court will not tolerate residential segregation."

Ghetto - - Pale - - Segregation

Black Dispatch

Most Negroes assume that segregation laws develop out of a deep seated racial prejudice which whites have for blacks. They do not know that there have been times in history when whites segregated whites, and when blacks segregated whites. The whole problem of segregation is wrapt up in economics—not race. Okla. City Okla.

When the Emperor Constantine was in control of ancient Rome, he confined the Jews in that city to a territory called the Ghetto. The English during early subjugation of Ireland, compelled the Irish to live in certain counties, designated as "pales." Irish songs today refer to "beyond the pale of tears." 6-1-33

It can be easily seen that segregation has its roots in soil other than color animosity. Take, for instance, right here in Oklahoma City. Out in Nichols Hills, when a white man purchases a lot he must sign an agreement to build a home of certain value. The type of house which he is required to build is so costly that no one but rich people can live out in this addition.

By fixing the cost of a man's house out in Nichols Hills, the rich white people of the capital have thus practiced a character of segregation upon the poor whites. The restriction in the deed prevents Mr. Poor White from inhabiting the neighborhood.

The ridiculousness about color segregation in Oklahoma City is vested in the fact that most of the Negro bootleggers operate successfully from the rear end of white men's residences in the north end of the city. The Negro is not obnoxious when he lives up over the garage or in the back room of the "big house." He becomes person non grata when he becomes a home owner on the same street with his boss.

The Atmosphere Of Compromise

At the risk of being charged with being a "yellow journalist," we rise to remark that the Negroes who went to the capitol Monday, and without protest permitted themselves to be linked with a program of segregation, identified themselves with the most unfortunate public incident which has occurred in the history of Oklahoma City.

We admit that some of our finest citizens were caught in a trap. We have in mind four of the members of that committee, who if they had fully understood its implications and meaning, would never have left Second street. We do not charge them with intentionally attempting to do their race group any injury, and one of the members of that committee has since said that if he had known before he went out, what he now knows, he could not have been dragged to the capitol with a team of oxen. All of which shows that most people's hindsight is better than their foresight. We might say in passing that one of the Negroes who was instrumental in getting up the delegation to go to the governor's office, has since admitted to a prominent lawyer that "I helped to get the crowd up because I'm trying to get something out of the governor for myself."

The experience Monday should teach our puerile individualists that they should cease their activities in trying to represent the race. Here in Oklahoma City we have the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. When questions regarding race rights and legal entanglements arise, no individual should assume to make an authoratative statement for the group or to head an undelegated mob which may talk out of turn or lack information on vital issues, such as in Monday's unfortunate debacle.

True it is that from time to time invitations will come to individuals to represent the race on certain occasions, but that invitation should be brought immediately to the organizations having such questions and problems as they special agendum. Definite and fixed policy of race action can in this way be preserved. Some way must be devised to stop individualism in Oklahoma City. Too many so-called leaders suffer from diarrhoea of the mouth. In this particular instance the Monday committee seemed to suffer from constipation of silence. And this is where their just condemnation lies.

No Negro or set of Negroes can afford to stand in the presence of administrative authority and not protest segregation. There is a vast difference between volitional separation and obligated segregation. The first is the act of a free man, the latter is a rule enforced upon slaves. We should not confuse these two principles. The writer personally practices as largely as he can volitional separation.

Governor Murray choked a segregation rule down the throats of the committee of Negroes who were before him, and we are reliably informed by two interlopers with the committee, that not a word was uttered in protest.

As we said at the outset, several good men got caught in this unfortunate set-up. The men who have in mind would not wittingly do anything to injure the advancement of their group, but we fear even in their cases that most of them felt flattered because the governor was supposed to have called them. This occasioned their lack of poise and balance at a vital moment.

The experience Monday should be a lesson to all of us who belong to a submerged group. We cannot afford to get off on a tantrum. It should teach us more how to stand by our own race organizations. On another page of this issue we have a manly forthright statement made by the legal committee of the Oklahoma City Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. Turn to it and read it. In the statement made by the N. A. A. C. P., is incorporated the ripened, sober thought of the American Negro about segregation and constitutional rights. The legal committee of the National Association would have been able Monday to inform Governor Murray that the Supreme Court of the United States had not endorsed segregation, in counter to his charge that it had.

It is now no mere inadvertence which causes the white newspapers to run headlines which say "Negroes Placated" and in the body of their articles ,touching on the governor's strange military order, announce that "a conference was held, at which time both white and Negro leaders agreed," etc. The very presence of Negroes in the atmosphere of compromise and the fact that they were previously advised in the Elk's Rest regarding what the order would be, gives weight to the statement of any white man that the Negroes present came to submit to the governor's notions about establishing a ghetto in Oklahoma City.

Here's Where The Trouble Lies

The most grievious injury done to the Negroes of Oklahoma City rests in the lie taken to Governor Murray some time last week to the effect that Negroes were riding in gangs last Friday night looking for trouble in the 600 block on East Sixth street, Oklahoma City. The Black Dispatch has carefully checked this matter from every angle possible and we have yet to find a Negro who knows anything about even the talk of violence.

Added to this is the statement of Mr. Hood, the man who has the property in charge. Mr. Hood declares that he himself sat in his car near the property practically all of Friday night and that there was no unusual disturbance in that neighborhood, and that no Negroes were seen by him near the property other than the occupants of the house he had rented.

The foregoing ought to establish the fact in the mind of all reasonable persons that no violence was attempted by Negroes last Friday night. The Black Dispatch takes responsibility now to say that with Governor Murray's order now extant there is no intention on the part of the Negroes of Oklahoma City to commit any overt and unlawful act.

We expect to oppose the military order of Governor Murray when the occasion arises, but we shall do it in an orderly and constitutional way. We say here and now that if there has been any incitement to riot, that hysteria has been fomented by the white persons who spread irresponsible rumors which had their base in the pure figment of racial prejudice.

Segregation - 1933

Oklahoma

SEGREGATION PLANS GET INDEFINITE JOLT WHEN BROUGHT BEFORE CITY COUNCIL TUESDAY

BUCK PASSED AND MOTION MADE TO APPOINT COMITTEE OF LEVEL-HEADED MEN OF BOTH RACES TO STUDY CONDITIONS

Governor Murray's Order Said To Have Been Violated By Both Whites and Negroes

The city council Tuesday afternoon adroitly passed the buck on Governor Murray's proposed segregation plans for the municipality, when the matter was indefinitely disposed of by giving authority to Mayor Blinn to appoint a committee composed of black and white to discuss the proposal.

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GOVERNOR NIPS RACIAL STRIFE IN OKLAHOMA

St. Louis, Mo.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Smoldering difficulties over a colored family's attempt to move in a residence area exclusively occupied by whites brought a declaration of martial law from Governor W. H. Murray Monday. The governor established the military zone in Ward Two and declared a boundary line to exist between white and colored home areas. He declared the order will remain in force until the state or city fixes a permanent boundary line.

Placing responsibility for the situation on "extremists among both races," Governor Murray said that on several occasions within the last two or three weeks "difficulties have arisen that both races feared might result in bloodshed and riots.

Well, Let's Locate the Committee

Mayor Blinn will doubtless receive the shock of his life when he discovers that Negroes who head organizations on the East Side of the city, will have nothing to do with the committee authorized by the city council to discuss segregation. No better way could be adopted to kill the ambitions of the East Side Civic League than for the city council to wait until a committee composed of whites and Negroes voluntarily adopt a plan to segregate Negroes and present their plans to the city planning commission.

Assuming that such a committee would meet, what would be the subject for discussion? Does anyone assume that Negroes of the city would be foolish enough to substitute the law and constitution for compromise?

No, Lula, when the elephants are found roosting in the trees, that's the day the Negroes of Oklahoma City will be willing to ban the law and accept a rule described and defined by the East Side Civic League.

We are reminded right here of an expression made many years ago by a very conservative fellow who was objecting to a merger suggested by the Socialist party. This very good Republican said that he objected to the plan to join efforts with the Socialists because it was his experience that the only way one could merge with a Socialist was to turn Socialist.

We have an idea that in the above statement is to be found focal the argument against any sane Negro meeting in conference with the East Side Civic League. The only way to get along in a conference regarding segregation with the East Side Civic League is for Negroes to endorse segregation.

In its condemnation of segregation ordinances the Supreme Court of the United States said in the case of Warley vs. Buchanan, being a cause of action passed up to that body from the City of Louisville:

Courts—interference with police power.

2. The exercise of the police power will not be interfered with by the courts where it is within the scope of legislative authority, and the means adopted reasonably tend to accomplish a lawful purpose, but such power cannot justify the passage of a law or ordinance which runs counter to the limitations of the Federal Constitution.

[For other cases, see Courts, 18a-184, in Digest Sup. Ct. 1908]

Civil rights—colored person's rights to purchase property.

3. A colored person has the right to acquire property without state legislation discriminating against him solely because of color, under U. S. Const. 14th Amend., providing that no state shall deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person the equal protection of the laws, and the Act of Congress of April 9, 1866 (14 Stat. at L. 27 chap. 31, Comp. Stat. 1916, §3931), providing that all "citizens of the United States" shall have the same rights in every state and territory as is enjoyed by white citizens thereof to "purchase" real and personal property.

Constitutional law—police power colored person's rights to purchase property.

4. A city ordinance which prevents the occupancy of a lot by a colored person in a block where a majority of the residences are occupied by white persons, thereby preventing white persons in such block from selling property therein to Negroes for residence purposes, is not a legitimate exercise of the police power of the state.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

JUL 9 1933

"None But Negroes"

NO doubt the enemies of a recall election think that they administered a knock out blow when they declared in their largest "paid advertisement" that "none but the homes of Negroes" are threatened by the enlarged drilling campaign. Possibly they feel that it is unnecessary to say anything more in order to win their fight. Perhaps it has never occurred to them that the home of a Negro, however humble that home is, may be just as dear to him as the mansion of the most prosperous white man is to its owner. It is just as hard for the Negro laborer to earn the dollars necessary to provide a shelter for his old age as it is for the laborer of another race. Moreover, it is certain that when and if the homes of these Negroes are rendered uninhabitable by drilling, the dispossessed inhabitants will be forced to move, and where they move may possibly furnish a serious problem to the entire city. Really Oklahoma City should be looking for a larger area where her Negro citizens may live in peace instead of trying to render uninhabitable the limited area in which they are now permitted to reside.

There ought to be enough exposition of the law in the above statement to convince the entire membership of the East Side Civic League (if some one of its leaders was honest enought to read it to them) that segregation as a principal in law is impossible here in America.

There need not be any dodging around the bush in this matter. The Negroes of this city intend to contest every inch of the ground where this question is involved. The Oklahoma City Branch of the N. A. A. C. P. is having its national legal staff study carefully Governor Murray's military order. This order of course sets a precedent in that no other American governor has ever before attempted to establish segregation lines by executive fiat.

It is unfortunate that the Negroes of this city must spend their hard earned dollars to battle against people who flout the constitution and ask the governor of the state to sustain them in their unlawful attitude. It is also unfortunate that we have a governor who so far forgets his oath to uphold the fundamental operating instrument of the land, and joins hands with those having adopted such vicious and un-American principles.

However, as we said at the beginning, we doubt seriously that Mayor Blinn will find a Negro with an Oklahoma City address who will so far forget reason as to compromise future legal action by entering into a conference with members of the East Side Civic League, who want to juggle with Murray's mythical race line.

The East Sixth Street Trouble

A great many people have wondered why such a terrible fright has gripped the white people over on East Sixth street, by reason of a Negro moving into the neighborhood. For ten years the black home owner has been quietly moving northward, and with practically no objection from the white property owners next door to where he has moved. moved.

The reason for all of the recent disturbances becomes immediately obvious when one studies carefully what has been happening over in the second ward for the past few years. The East Side Civic League is today meeting itself coming back. In the language of the old colored lady, the East Side Civic League "has been where it's gwine," and as it starts in retreat, it as usual seeks to make the Negro the goat.

When agitation started several years ago about the northward trend of the Negro, restriction clauses were put into the deeds of white home owners, fanned into the white heat of passion by the East Side Civic League. Whites who lived on Third and Fourth streets, directly adjacent to the Negro district, refused to adopt this plan for the reason that they were close enough to the Negro section to know that Negro invasion of their streets was possible and probable.

Farther up in the district, beginning at Sixth street, it never occurred to the whites that in the course of ten years the Negro population would drift that far, so it was easy to persuade these home owners to write into their deeds a clause which said the property could never be sold to, or occupied by Negroes.

When a Negro family moved into the 600 block on East Sixth street a few weeks ago, the entire block, with the exception of five houses which the white owner seeks to rent to Negroes, was restricted to Negroes. Here is the base of all the trouble.

Faced with the fact that a Negro is actually in the block, and dominated with the thought that their property values have depreciated, these property owners, who voluntarily agreed that they would not sell or rent to Negroes, rush to Governor Murray and persuade the chief executive to set aside constitutional guarantees in order that white people may temporarily persist in their un-American compact.

The Negroes in Oklahoma City cannot expand to the south because of industrialism and the oil fields. They cannot go west because of the downtown business area. They cannot go east because of the State Fair Grounds and other industrial developments. The only outlet is north, unless we make plans to live in airships up over the heads of the membership of the East Side Civic League.

The answer to this whole question is not in scrapping the Constitution of the United States. It will be found rather in a complete recognition of the fact that the Negro is going to move northward. If not during Governor Murray's administration—later. Members of the East Side Civic League should now recognize the folly of their conduct and unreason. Somewhere, in somebody's home above Fifth street, a movement should be started to recall the restriction clauses in deeds. Old man Theodore Hassman put such a restriction clause in the deed to the farm recently purchased by the city for a Negro park, but Hassman's sons lived long enough to regret their father's act. It impeded their progress and prevented them from making money.

Just so it is that members of the East Side Civic League have impeded their own progress. They have been provincial in their reasoning. Open confession is good for the soul, and the sooner the leaders of this silly, un-American movement recognize this fact, the better for all concerned.

Negroes today are living in the palaces built by Chicago millionaires a generation ago. The history of all cities and communities is that the rich move out of their old homes and the poor people move in. Oklahoma City is no exception to this rule. Take the history of this city. Some of the first families of this municipality used to live down on West Noble and Chickasaw. Who lives there now?

Who lives in the fine home W. J. Pettee built on East Third back in the yesteryears? Who lives where Frank P. Johnson used to live back in 1902? This writer has spent all of his life here in this community and he knows that what men want today they don't want tomorrow. This is proved by the movement of men who have owned property in this city for the past forty years.

Oklahoma

Segregation - 1933

A Sane And Safe City Council

The Black Dispatch believes that today we have as fine a set of city councilmen as ever governed Oklahoma City. This group far exceeds in liberality and fairness the general status of most incumbents who administered affairs in the yesteryears.

It is because of our knowledge of the high type of citizenship to be found on the city council, that we believe a deaf ear will be turned to the demand which comes from the governor's office insisting that the city council violate the Constitution of the United States, and its plain interpretation by the Supreme Court, by the enactment of a segregation ordinance.

In order that the city council and city manager may have an easy reference regarding the Supreme Court ruling on this subject, the Black Dispatch consumes more than three of its columns this week in publishing the high court's decision in the case of Buchanan vs. Warley, commonly referred to as the Louisville case.

There is not a city councilman in Oklahoma City, nor anywhere else, who following a perusal of this decision, can reasonably conclude that a valid ordinance can be drawn which sets metes and bounds where Negroes must reside.

In paragraph five of this decision, the United States Supreme Court covers fully and completely the artful dodge of Governor Murray, when he seeks to hide his unlawful proclamation behind the theory that his executive order has been made to prevent race conflict and probable rioting.

Here is paragraph five:

> "A city ordinance prohibiting colored persons from occupying as residences any house in any block in which the majority of residences are occupied by white people, thereby preventing white persons in such blocks from selling property to colored people for residential purposes, violates the constitutional prohibition against the interference with property rights except by due process of law, and cannot be sustained on the ground that it WILL PROMOTE THE PUBLIC PEACE BY PREVENTING RACE CONFLICTS, or that the acquisition of property in such blocks by colored persons for residence purposes will cause the depreciation in the value of property in the neighborhood owned by white persons."

In the light of this construction placed upon property rights of citizens it should be plain to the members of the city council that Governor Murray has overstepped the bounds of the law, where he now asks the city council to follow. The governor has said the city council will pass a segregation ordinance "if it has guts." We will reverse that statement: The city council will have guts if it refuses to obey the mandate to violate the law.

During the administration of Jack Walton several years ago, the city council was persuaded by radical whites to pass just such an ordinance as is now proposed. The result was that instead of promoting the public peace, it had the opposite effect. That one ill-advised council meeting, when the then city council permitted itself to be swayed by prejudice, cost the city of Oklahoma City hundreds of dollars in attorney fees, and the Negroes more than $1,000. It ended in the federal court stating in no uncertain terms that the Negroes of Oklahoma City had the unrestricted right to purchase property anywhere on the topside of America.

In the exercise of this right, the Black Dispatch wants to go on record now as saying Negroes of Oklahoma City have not been radical. The Negroes have just as much right to natural expansion as members of other race groups who live in this community. If some Negro were to purchase property up in the heart of the white district we would know he had that right, but we would not encourage such an action. Personally, this writer would prefer to find his social contacts among his own group, but we find no fault with any black man when he makes his individual decision which runs counter to our own notion.

The house on Sixth street is directly in front of a Negro church. It is directly in front of a block on the south completely occupied by Negroes. The theory of natural expansion is that when Negroes fill up one block they have the right to overflow into the next block. This is all that Mr. Oakley and his family have done.

As we said at the outset, we have faith in the present city council. We believe it will do the fair, square thing by its Negro citizenry. Another thing which the council should keep in mind: The Negro is not wholly to blame for the situation which exists out on East Sixth street. A white woman owns this property. This white woman owns just about half the block in question. If this white woman did not permit Negroes to rent this property they, of course, could not be occupying property on Sixth street. The point is that white folk themselves are not together on this question. Every advance in ownership of property from Second street to Tenth has been made by Negroes purchasing property from white people willing to sell. If they could over unite on this question, the Negro's theories of natural expansion would be but an empty dream. Governor Murray should create a martial law zone around the white man's desire to rent property to Negroes. In this attitude lies all the trouble..

"There Will Be No Lynching"

"I have no law for this but I have the power." This laconic reply was made by Governor Murray Monday in reply to Attorney J. J. Joseph, who questioned the Governor's right to draw a line across the map of the city, thereby designating Negro and white districts.

Our American government is a government of laws and not of men. We are supposed to function under the Stars and Stripes by the guidance of a fundamental instrument called "The Constitution." We wonder if Governor Murray has forgotten this.

Turn now to the governor's statement: "I have no law for this, but I have the power." Here we find expressed the psychology which dominates the mob. The mob ignores the law and the constitution and shouts, "We have the power."

It is interesting to note that the governor in his talk to the Negro committee informed them that there would be no lynching in this state. We wish right here to commend the governor for this statement, for we understand that he meant that no group of white men would be allowed during his tenure of office to drag a black man from his home and do physical violence to such citizen. All citizens of the race who love justice will applaud Governor Murray for this decision.

But we wonder whether Governor Murray has ever contemplated upon the fact that there are some things for which men would rather die than live? We are talking now about the philosophy of Patrick Henry, that Revolutionary hero who shouted, "Give me liberty or give me death." There is reflected here the spirit of Runneymede. When you deprive men of liberty there is not much use to live.

In this respect Governor Murray should be brought forcibly to a recognition of the fact that he himself Monday led a legal lynching party. He lynched the Negroes of Oklahoma City of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution, to own, possess and occupy property. If the governor lived in Italy or in Russia, his act might be constitutional. In America, unless the Constitution is a sheet of dirty paper, Governor Murray has lynched black citizens of their rights.

Oklahoma City, Okla.
TIMES

JUL 7 1933

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Old Decision Is Relied Upon As a Remedy

Block Would Be Unit Of Division Under Plan Of Race Leaders.

This is the fifth and last of a fact-presenting series on the Negro expansion problem on the eastside.

By IRVIN HURST
Of The Times Staff

WHILE Governor Murray twice has intervened in affairs of east-side white residents and Negroes, both through his "segregation" order and newspaper interviews the governor declared his belief that a permanent solution is primarily a city responsibility.

The first order stated it is "to preserve harmony and prevent possible bloodshed and riot, and with a view and hope that the city council . . . will immediately take steps to define an equitable, permanent section so that neither race shall trespass upon the rights and properties of the other."

More than two years ago, the Hare planning report declared:

"As in most of the cities of the central and southern states, the principal racial problem centers about the Negroes. They are a necessary and useful element in the population and proper provision should be made for their living facilities. While it is to the advantage of each race that living areas be segregated, the white race should be much interested in the welfare of the Negroes because of the close contact resulting from the employment of the Negroes as servants in various capacities."

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THE report recommended "fair cooperation and mutual agreement between the races" to accomplish this result.

Both members of the East Side Civic club and other white property owners on the east side are agreed that a stable division line would enhance property values on the north.

Charles G. Barrett, adjutant general of the national guard, who alone in civilian clothes went into the Negro section to explain Murray's orders, declares the problem of maintaining harmonious relations "is a civic responsibility, and deserves serious consideration from city officials."

Mrs. Barrett owns property on the east side. General Barrett advocates ample room for Negro expansion but he holds the city should compensate white property owners for any losses within a certain degree.

After Murray had written Mayor Blinn two letters, the mayor appointed a committee of 15 from each race, headed by Phil Daugherty, assistant county attorney and East Side Civic club president, to study the situation. Already the governor's "segregation" order had led to resentment among the Negroes, however, and only two attended the meeting.

"We didn't want to bind ourselves to any recommendations for a line of demarcation, even though our group voted as a minority against the recommendation," said Roscoe Dunjee, Negro editor and one of the 13 who stayed away from the meeting.

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RELYING on a 1915 decision of the Virginia court of appeals, however, the committee has advanced a proposed segregation ordinance which now is before the city planning commission.

If favorably reported, the proposal —which attempts, under the city's police powers, to regulate occupancy by providing that no Negro may move into a block predominated by whites and no whites into a block where the majority is Negroes—will go before the city council.

"I believe it will absolutely insure peace," Daugherty declared. "Instead of the residents threatening to take the law into their own hands when a Negro invades a white block, or vice versa, they will call the police.

"Property values on the east side will rebound from such an ordinance, for a white citizen will have no fear the value of his home is to be destroyed by a Negro moving in next door. On the other hand, Negroes may advance any time they get together for a wholesale buy which will give them a majority in a new block."

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FROM A. S. Heaney, 101 Northeast Third street, came a plea for more consideration of ward two by city officials. Asserting Negro encroachments encourages oil leasing, he declared taxes "paid by east siders in the last 40 years far exceed any oil revenue" that the city may expect and he warned that oil development would leave "wreck and ruin" behind.

"When the value of this property is destroyed, it destroys the ability to pay more taxes," Heaney added.

Still another hope lies in the $3,300,000,000 industrial recovery bill passed by congress. Section 202 provides:

"The administrator, under the direction of the president, shall prepare a comprehensive program of public works, which shall include among other things the following:

. . . (d) Construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair under public regulation or control of low-cost housing and slum-clearance projects."

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JOHN CARLOCK, recommended appointee for state administrator, while not prepared to discuss local projects, advises cities "to put first things first to share in this money."

Meanwhile, with unemployed registration indicating more than 3,000 Negroes jobless (spring report of Otis M. Smith, city relief director), such a local project offers a possibility for increasing good-will also. Negroes asked about the feasibility of apartment dwellings hailed such a plan enthusiastically, as a rule, although Dunjee said he doubted if Oklahoma City Negroes are adapted to apartment house living.

"They like their little dwellings too well," he added.

While Negroes indicated they will not take kindly to a segregation line, which some termed "a stigma," they were free in expressions for peace with their white neighbors.

"We fight on our knees, praying to God," said Maud Brockway, 1239 Northeast Seventh street, president of the City Federation of Negro Women's clubs. She has lived on friendly terms with white neighbors for four years.

"We mustn't be too proud," counsels Rev. John H. Smith, Presbyterian minister. With Elijah Burns of the Black Cross, Smith attended the meeting of Blinn's committee and indorsed the proposed segregation plans, "subject to a few amendments," he explained.

Daugherty claims signers for the restrictive agreements generally for the territory north of Murray's non-trespass zone, and for much of the property within that zone, to halt encroachments. The advance is bound to be halted at the alley south of Park place and between Lincoln boulevard and the alley east of Kelly avenue, for that is Howe's Capitol addition which has a flat restriction against sale or rental to Negroes.

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THE city could do much to restore harmony in giving the Negroes possession of Hassman park or selecting another park site.

Consenting to leasing of Booker T. Washington park at Fourth street and High avenue, they have seen the city reap $52,151 from two wells in the hope of getting access to the 42 acres of Hassman park at Tenth street and Grand boulevard.

The city paid $25,000 for the property, the case ran the gamut of court protests, and then when the Negroes planned to dedicate the property June 19, their picnic was halted by Murray's executive order. With the old channel of the North river cutting across the Hassman park, it is grown up underbrush and weeds. The Negroes secretly had chosen a new name and planned a big affair.

"We were more hurt than angered by the governor's order," said George R. Ragland, Negro Business Men's league president. Negroes say the governor was misinformed when he issued the order. With the Canadian trouble threatened.

Statistics of the park department show the Negroes have about one-fifth the city's park space, but included are undeveloped Riverside park, undeveloped Hassman park of the city, and Washington with two of its 19 acres fenced off for oil wells.

Reno avenue dump west

Murray's Line on East Side Draws Fire

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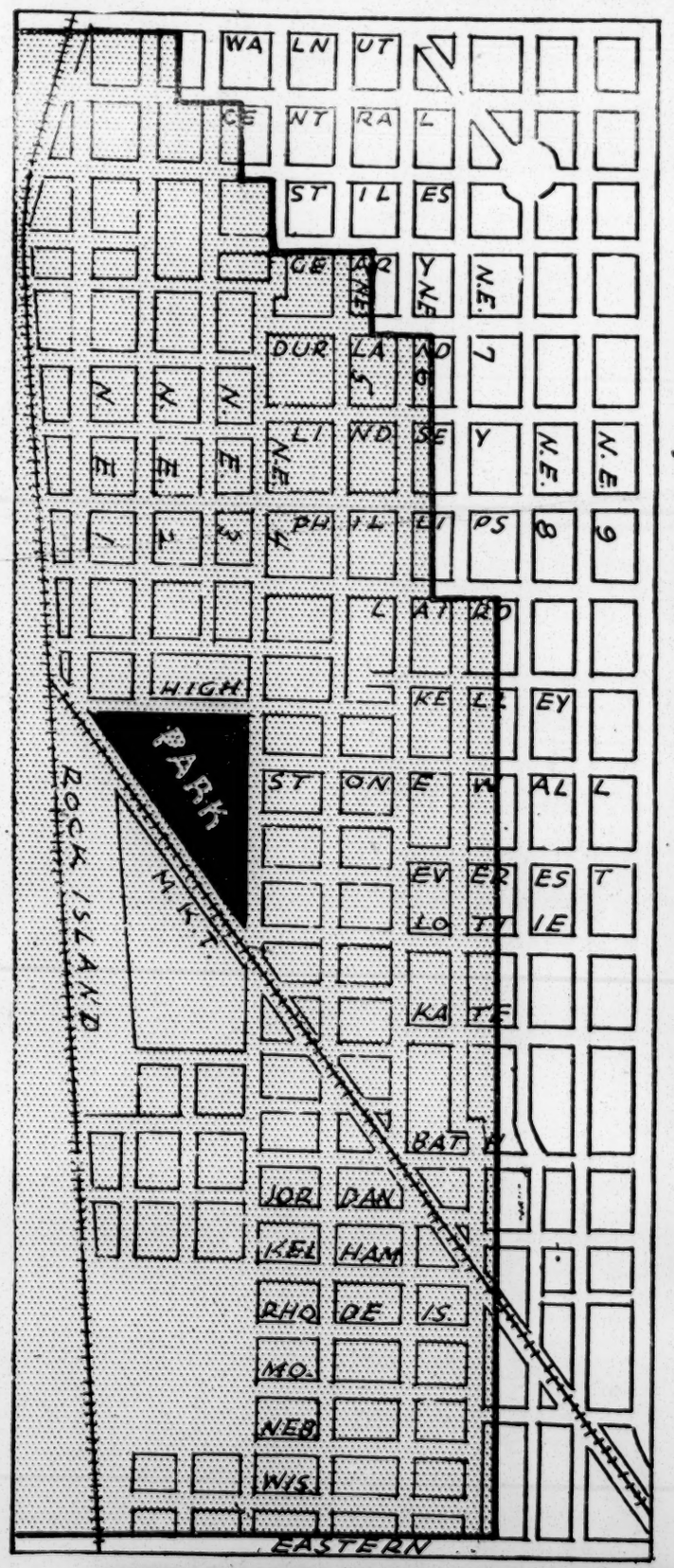

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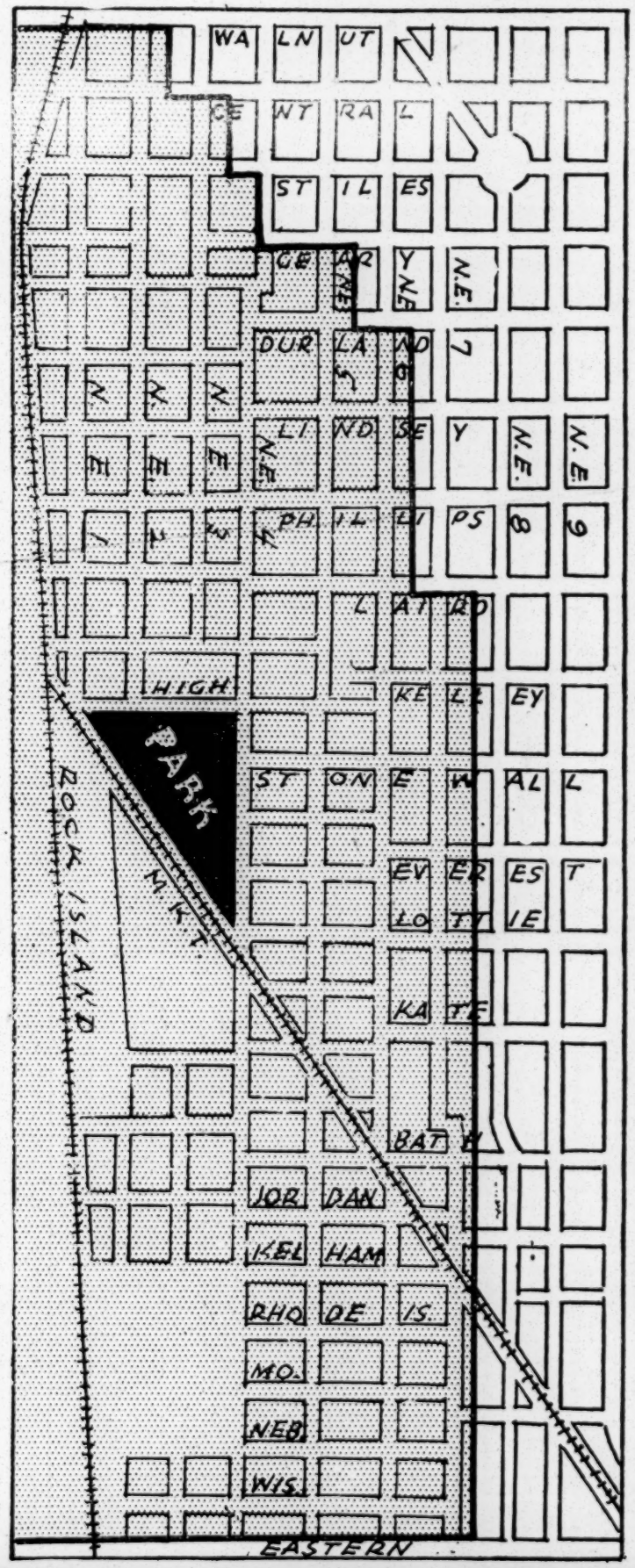

Segregation—1933

Oklahoma

Fake Oil Leases

With agitation now on for the extension of the oil drilling zone in Oklahoma City, to include the residential section lying between Fourth and Eighth street, the Black Dispatch desires to offer a word of caution to Negro property owners. This article is written on the assumption that action is going to follow thought, and that within the coming year all of the territory up to Eighth street will be under lease. We therefore address ourselves to the question of honest, open and above board leases as contrasted with fake contracts which do nothing more than tangle the unwitting property owner in an inescapable web while the rascal who turned the trick peddles his victim to the highest bidder.

Our attention has been called this week to a purported lease contract which has already been prepared and is being circulated in the territory herein before described. On its face the spurious lease employs language to convey the idea that $400 per lot is to be paid the home owner. Several Negroes have already allowed themselves to be fooled, and their oil interests will be in a questionable tangle for many moons. It is with the hope that we may be able to save those who have not yet leased from being hi-jacked and perhaps robbed, that we are going to discuss this contract at length.

We are going to quote right here two paragraphs from this alleged spurious oil lease:

"That within thirty days after at least one of the blocks hereinabove described shall have been legally and finally included within the U-7 Zone of the City of Oklahoma City, each of second parties shall deliver to first party free of charge one or more abstracts of title covering the property owned by him, duly certified to date by a reputable abstracter and said abstract shall remain the property of second party; that first party shall have a reasonable length of time after the expiration of said thirty day period, which said reasonable length of time shall in no event be less than sixty (60) days after said thirty (30) day period, within which to have said abstract or abstracts examined, and within which to furnish to each of second parties a written opinion or opinions containing such requirements as may be made by first party's attorney with respect to the property of second party, and each of second parties shall have twenty (20) days from the receipt by him of such opinion or opinions as affect his property, to meet requirements contained therein. In the event any of said second parties fail to meet said requirements then and in that event, first party shall have the right to do so, if he so desires. Any supplemental abstract expense incurred by first party subsequent to approval of title by first party shall be borne by first party.

"(b) When the title to at least fifty-one per cent of the property embraced within such of the above described blocks as shall have been legally and finally included within the U-7 Zone of the City of Oklahoma City, shall have been accepted and approved by first party's attorney, and when the right of first party to drill a well or wells thereon shall have been finally and legally established, then within fifteen (15) days thereafter, first party shall at its option ,either deposit in the First National Bank & Trust Company of Oklahoma City to the credit of second parties whose property is a part of such block or blocks, as shall have been included in the U-7 Zone, and to which title has been approved, a cash bonus at the rate of $100.00 per "lot" as the term "lot" is hereinafter in numerical sub-division III, of this contract, specifically defined, or execute and record a release of this contract."

You are going to have to read another paragraph before you get to the balance of the $400. But before you read that proviso we want to discuss the foregoing.

The fellow who wrote that contract had everything else in the world in his mind but drilling an oil well. All he intended to do was to employ the language to tie the lot owner up in such a way that a legitimate drilling contract with somebody else could not be touched by said lot owner. Through a maze of verbiage he gives himself indefinite and unlimited time to peddle the valuable property to the very man who will later drill the well, if one is ever to be drilled. The man who wrote that contract is what might in gangdom be termed a "muscle man."

All that one gets any vision of in the first two paragraphs is $100.00. Remember, however, the lot owner is party of the second part. And under the terms of this contract party of the second part must furnish "one or more abstracts" of title covering his property.

Everybody knows that there is not an abstract in the district in question, which if brought down to date would not cost in the neighborhood of $75. Party of the second part must pay for this before he catches the slightest glimpse of the first $100. He must in addition and at the whim or caprice of the first party furnish "more" abstracts. This is the first effective dodge the trickster makes to get your name on the dotted line, so that he can peddle you to the highest bidder. Any legitimate oil firm would agree to make a master abstract of the whole area and charge this expense up on their promotional side of the job.

But suppose the lot owner is foolish enough to sign on the dotted line and, suppose he has only about $25 worth of work to be done on his abstract, and has his papers brought up to date, assuming he is on the direct road to his $400.

Mr. Trickster has given himself sixty days still in which to examine your abstract, to see whether he likes it. His attorneys are then given a still longer period to prepare opinions concerning it. He will find some alleged flaw and you must wait 20 days more. It is pointed out that at the expiration of this time party of the first part can take more time to straighten out whatever he concludes is wrong with your title. And finally, you do not get a dime until fifty-one per cent of the property owners in the district have signed away their rights along with you, and the attorneys for the company have taken another prolonged period to determine whether the city has safeguarded party of the first part. Then and only then does party of the first part agree to decide whether he will pay Mr. Lot Owner $100. Keep in mind, there is nothing in this contract which finally binds party of the first part to do anything but decide to take it or leave it.

Through all of this indeterminate period, Mr. Lease Peddler, the trickster, has been busy bullying legitimate oil men in the field.

He has an indefinite option to lease your property; he can wait six months or six years, while you chafe at the bits. You thought you were going to get $400, but unwittingly agreed under your signature and the terms of the contract to wait forever and a day for a man to pay you who perhaps owes his week's hotel bill.

The fact that hundreds of Negroes were duped and robbed in the Walnut Grove and Phillips and Mead Addition of much of their mineral rights warrants the Black Dispatch in warning the property owners against these spurious contracts. It would be better to take far less cash and get a well drilled, rather than like the dog grabbing the proverbial bone in the water, lose everything. We shall have more to say on this subject as the days pass, but close close with this admonition: Deal with some reputable company with a time limit on when they will act. Be able differentiate between an option and a bona fide lease.

Segregation Obtrudes Its Ugly Head

Notices placed on telephone posts on the east side of the city during the past ten days announce that the city council will consider a "redistricting" ordinance September 23 at 9 a. m. Few Negroes have paid much attention to this notice because of its misleading caption. No one would, of course, assume that "redistricting" had anything to do with segregation. In the body of the notice, however, there is this language

"That each of second parties to whose credit first party shall have deposited the cash bonus referred to above, shall in addition to said cash bonus and in addition to the royalty provided for in said community lease, be entitled to receive an additional bonus at the rate of $300.00 per "lot" as the term "lot" is specifically defined in numerical sub-division III, of this contract, which said additional bonus shall be payable out of the net proceeds from the sale of 1-32nd of 13-16ths of all the oil and gas produced and saved from any part of the leased premises, it being specifically agreed that said additional bonuses are all to be paid out of the net proceeds from the sale of the same 1-32nd of 13-16th of the oil and gas produced and saved from any part of said leased premises, and that said proceeds shall be free and clear of all cost for development, equipment or operation. And in this connection, it is further agreed that if anyone or more of second parties at any time or times desire to sell said additional bonus or bonuses, then first party shall have the first and prior right to purchase the same at the same cash price or prices offered there for by any other good faith purchaser."

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Through all of this indeterminate period, Mr. Lease Peddler, the trickster, has been busy bullying legitimate oil men in the field.

He has an indefinite option to lease your property; he can wait six months or six years, while you chafe at the bits. You thought you were going to get $400, but unwittingly you get to the balance of the $400. But before you read that proviso we want to discuss the foregoing.

The fellow who wrote that contract had everything else in the world in his mind but drilling an oil well. All he intended to do was to employ the language to tie the lot up in such a way that a legitimate drilling contract could not be touched by said lot owner.

employed by Mr. Mike Peshek, the city clerk:

"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an ordinance, prescribing and regulating the use and occupancy, by white person or persons, and-or Negro person or persons, of lands, premises and buildings within the corporate limits of the City of Oklahoma City, was introduced at a meeting of the City Council Sept. 5, 1933 and that a public hearing will be held thereon Sept. 23, 1933 at 9:00 o'clock A. M. 9-16-33

"All persons having any objection to the terms of the proposed ordinance may appear before the City Council in the City Hall at 9 o'clock A. M., on Sept. 23, 1933 and show cause why the same should not be adopted. At any time not later than the hour set for said hearing, any owner of property within the district affected, or any interested person, may make written protest by filing same with the City Clerk of said city."

The Black Dispatch is hoping that the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will make adequate arrangements to present arguments and make formal protest against this attempt of the East Side Civic League to fasten the vicious tenacles of segregation upon the Negroes of Oklahoma City. A strong committee, composed of courageous men and women should appear September 23 and make vigorous answer. With the exception of a half dozen Negroes, who have allied themselves with the East Side Civic League, for selfish purposes, all of the 15,000 Negroes of this city are opposed to this step backward. Oklahoma City

There is not a member of the city council who does not know that this proposed ordinance is unconstitutional. We are of the opinion that most of them will vote against it. We cannot believe that they will be swayed by prejudiced political considerations as indicated by one member who is alleged to have said: "I know it is unconstitutional, but I am going to stay on the good side of the East Side Civic League by voting for it."

Let it be said to the credit of the councilmen from the 2nd ward, this statement is not credited to either of them.

May 30, 1918, Mayor Ed Overholser, a Republican mayor, signed an ordinance which had for its purpose the segregation of the Negroes of Oklahoma City. This was six months following the famous Louisville decision, in which the U. S. Supreme Court placed its ban on this un-American practice prevalent in urban centers at that time.

We are publishing this ordinance in full in this issue of the Black Dispatch so that all Negroes and interested whites who may read, will understand that subsequent to the Louisville decision, the Federal court in the Western District of Oklahoma, banned just such subterfuges as are now proposed again in Oklahoma City. The late Judge Cottrell in the case of William Floyd vs. the City of Oklahoma City, during the hearing, and in an ex parte outburst from the bench, said: "The City of Oklahoma City is attempting to do by subterfuge and artifice what the Supreme Court of the United States says it cannot do."

If you read carefully the proposed ordinance before the council and compare it with the ordinance declared unconstitutional by Judge Cottrell in 1919, you will observe that the two are almost identical and the same. It seems preposterous that a city council in Oklahoma City would in 1933 saddle upon the 15,000 Negroes of this municipality the expense of going back into court and have there restated and reinterpreted that which has already been fully explained, illuminated and made clear fifteen years ago. We repeat: we do not believe that a majority of the city council will bow to the will of a bigoted minority here in Oklahoma City.

Regardless of this belief, we are assured that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be on the firing line in 1933, just as it was on the firing line in 1919. Prompt steps should be immediately taken to convince the city fathers that such ordinances are unconstitutional, and vigorous action taken to immediately return the city government to the federal court if by chance the unconstitutional measure should be enacted into law.

Segregation – 1933

Oklahoma.

The Trap

Mayor Blinn Wednesday named a committee of thirty citizens whom he requests to study a proposed boundary line to be established between the white and colored races in Oklahoma City. The personnel of this proposed committee is composed of an equal number of white and colored people. Black Dispatch

We have no fault to find with Mayor Blinn for naming this committee. He was requested so to do by the governor of the state. In designating this conference group the municipal chieftain is simply carrying out the wishes of a superior officer. Had the writer been mayor we perhaps would have adopted another method in disposing of the governor's request, but the mayor has exercised what in his judgment is the proper thing to do. It is now the duty of Negroes to exercise their discretion in the matter.

We do, however, find fault with any Negro foolish enough to respond to this call and thereby endanger the constitutional property rights of every Negro in Oklahoma City. We want to go on record here and now as saying that any Negro who enters into conference with a white committee (however good his intentions), is walking squarely into a legal trap from which he will find difficulty in extricating himself. Okla. City, Okla.

There need not be any excuse offered to Negroes by any black man who seeks to serve on such a committee, to the effect that he accepted membership simply to find out what the whites who entered the conference want to do. The truth is, there is not a Negro child in Oklahoma City who does not know the definite purpose of the East Side Civic League. Its record across a period of a half dozen years is well known. One has only to refer to the daily press, and the president of the East Side Civic League, to determine their avowed purpose. 6-1-33

Under the headline in Tuesday's Times, which read "East Side Club Asks Color Line Made Permanent," this daily Oklahoma City publication had this significant statement:

"Tentative boundary line between white and Negro areas in ward two established by Governor Murray four weeks ago was indorsed as a permanent solution to the problem by a committee of 15 representatives from the East Side Civic club and ward two Monday night."

Need any one outside of the insane asylum at Norman be in a quandary as to the intent and purpose of the East Side Civic League in calling this conference? There is no Negro who need come back to Negroes from this conference, and after he has served the purpose of these arch segregationists and say that he attended this meeting and walked into this trap not knowing what he was doing.

There is no argument here that Mayor Blinn, or any member of the city council, has any ulterior motives in taking this action. We, in fact, believe that if the question of passing a segregation ordinance is ever passed up to the present city council it will be voted down decisively. Mayor Blinn has simply acted on a request coming from the governor. The governor has been importuned to do what he has done by white people who allege that race strife exists in certain sections of the second ward. It is the motives lurking behind the attitude of the East Side Civic League about which we are concerned. We think the suggestion that the conference committee report to the planning commission, instead of to the city council, is evidence of the council's desire to wash its hands of the entire matter.

While the United States Supreme Court has decided that segregation ordinances are illegal and not a proper exercise of the police power of the state, the same high court has agreed that property owners do have the right to enter into a compact one with another to do certain definite things. For instance, it is legal to put restrictions in deeds which prevent the sale or occupancy of property by Negroes. This is what has been done by the white property owners up on Sixth street, and this is the reason for all of this talk now about a boundary line. The whites who voluntarily put these restrictions into their deeds now refuse to take them out, and want Negroes to be the proverbial goat in their dilemma.

The hidden motive which lies in a desire for a conference with Negroes, as proposed by Mayor Blinn's committee, rests in the notion that by getting Negroes into a conference an agreement may be faked upon which the city council can later predicate a legal segregation ordinance.

In other words the East Side Civic League has the notion that if it is legal for people in a given block to exercise their self determination by writing race restrictions into their deeds, it is also legal for whites and Negroes to meet and mutually decide on a segregation line. In this we believe they are correct. That is to say, if the Negroes and whites meet and jointly adopt Governor Murray's mythical line as a permanent line, and enter into legal covenants to that effect, we believe the city would have the right to later draft an ordinance having for its purpose the enforcement of such agreement.

The daily papers have published the names of the proposed committee. This writer's name appears there, and although we have not been officially informed by Mayor Blinn that our presence is requested, we state very definitely now that we will meet to discuss a permanent line of demarcation between races in Oklahoma City when the elephants are roosting in the rose bushes. This is not a facetious statement; we mean by the remark above that we would not for a single instance endanger the property rights of Negroes in Oklahoma City by appearing on a committee, a portion of whose personnel questioned the right of Negroes to purchase property with the freedom of men of other races.

Every Negro who unwittingly went to Governor Murray's office the day the mythical line was drawn. declares that he did not assent or agree to this outrageous plan of the governor. All who have expressed themselves in subsequent Negro meetings have stated emphatically that the governor arbitrarily designated a line, and without discussion issued his ultimatum.

Since that time, however, every white journal which has discussed this unfortunate incident, conveys the impression to its readers that Negroes and whites agreed to the boundary lines set by the governor.

This writer has received letters and telegrams from all over the nation requesting information about Governor Murray's military zone. This means that the eyes of the nation are on us. The New York office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has written that Governor Murray's order is being studied there with the thought of making legal attack upon the illegality of the act. It would be extremely unfortunate were any unthinking Negro named by Mayor Blinn to loan his presence to a setup which might later be used to bolster up and fake the legalization of a segregation ordinance.

SEGREGATION BOUNDARY SET BY GOVERNOR MURRAY IN SPITE OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE STATES THAT HE HAS NO LAW FOR ACTION; EXERTS HIS POWER

Committee Seeks To Suppress "Yellow Journalism" Which Would Expose Its Activities and Presence

In a drastic executive order, apparently arbitrarily drawn in his office, without advice or consent of Negroes, or without the consent of Negroes who will admit it, Governor William H. Murray Monday declared military law in a three-block strip of city property extending from Eastern avenue to Walnut. A delegation of Negroes stood aghast in the governor's office while he informed them what he had decided to do.

No Law For Order.

"I have no law for this, but I have the power and I'm going to do it," said Governor Murray when the only protest made came from Attorney J. J. Joseph.

"Do you mean to say, Governor Murray, that this line you have drawn on this map before us is a permanent line of demarkation designating where Negroes ought to live?"

"Yes, where they will be permitted to live," the governor is noted as saying.

Joseph Talks.

"I was an interloper, and not one of the committee selected to go to the governor's office, so I felt out of place in asking questions," said Joseph, in telling a Black Dispatch reporter what actually happened in the governor's office. "I could not hold my peace, however, because there came no protest from the Negroes there supposed to represent the rights of black folk."

No Interview.

"When we got there, there was no introductions. In fact, there was no conference. The governor without any preliminaries or attempt at introductory statements, grabbed up a map upon which he had already drawn lines. He proceeded to tell the committee that 'I am going to do this.'"

Dr. W. L. Haywood, according to Attorney Joseph, then asked the governor if there was going to be any opportunity given for natural expansion? Joseph said the governor gave an indirect answer to this.

Would Censor Press.

Haywood ,according to Joseph, then said to the governor that he wanted the governor to protect the members of the committee from "yellow journalism" which might try to distort the meaning of the committee's presence in the governor's office.

"We want the world to know that a group of intelligent Negroes have called on you today," Joseph said Haywood averred.

"I don't think I can do much about that. They smear me with filth all the time," so Joseph quoted Murray as answering.

Gives Lecture.

Murray then plunged into a lecture to the Negroes about his purpose in sending for them and why he was taking it upon himself to violate the guarantees of the Federal Constitution.

Committee.

In addition to Dr. Haywood and Joseph, members of the committee whose names could be learned, were E. J. Cain, A. P. Bethel, Rev. A. M. Johnson, Thomas Edwards, George R. Ragland, Morgan Hailey and others.

At the conclusion of his lecture to the Negroes Murray immediately dictated the following executive-military order:

"Whereas, for some years last passed occasional difficulties growing out of race competition have arisen in Ward 2 in the southeast section of Oklahoma City, due largely to extremists among both white and the Negro race; and,

Whereas, on several occasions during the past two or three weeks, difficulties have arisen that both races feared might result in bloodshed and riot; and,

"Whereas, there are certain fundamental rights belonging to both, by reason of long settlement and occupancy and social opportunities; and,

Whereas, race riots invariably result in the greatest damage done to the minority race, or that of least favor; and,

Whereas, it is essential that all people live in amity and peace, having a common country and common allegiance to government; and,

"Whereas, during these times, the mobbish spirit is more threatening than during normal times, therefore, it behooves the Governor to exercise the supreme executive power under Article 6 of the State of Oklahoma, in order to prevent riots, mob violence, and bloodshed:

Now, therefore, I, Wm. H. Murray, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby declare a zone to be used exclusively by the Negro race, the same beginning at the Fair Grounds, one half block north of East 7th Street, at the intersection of the alley of the block adjoining the Fair Grounds, and one half block south of the East 8th Street car-line, and running down the alley westward to Phillips Avenue; thence south to the alley between East 5th and East 6th Streets; thence due west for a distance of two blocks to Durland Street; thence south to the alley between East 4th and East 5th Streets; thence west to Geary Avenue; thence south to East 4th Street, or the street car line; thence west one block to Stiles Avenue; thence south one half block to the alley between East 3rd and East 4th streets; thence west to Central Avenue; thence south to the alley between East 2nd and East 3rd Streets; thence west to Walnut Avenue; thence south crossing the Rock Island Railway track to the North Canadian River; thence along the meanderings of the river to Eastern Avenue.

"And the said area before described shall be regarded as exclusively for the resident and business district of Oklahoma City for the Negro race: Provided, however, if any white people have rented and live within said district, they shall be enabled to continue so to reside until their contracts expire; and, when their contracts expire, they shall move from said district. Provided further that the white owners of property are not to be disturbed in their property rights except they shall not rent after the expiration of their present contracts to any white people now residing in said district.

"It is further ordered that for three blocks all of the section from the boundary line of said segregated district running north across the street car track to the allay between East 10th Street and Park Place Avenue, and extending westward to Phillips Avenue; thence south to the railroad to the street car line on East 8th Street; thence westward along said line to Durland Avenue; thence south to East 6th Street ;thence west to Central Ovenue; and thence south to East 4th Street street car line; thence west to Oklahoma Avenue; thence south to the Rock Island Railway, —that the said foregoing strip lying north of said segregated district shall be regarded as a neutral Non-Trespass Zone; and that all Negroes now residing under legal contracts, or owning property there, shall be permitted to continue such residence until the expiration of said contracts, and that those owning property shall not be disturbed in said zone; but that until the City or the State makes other provisions, no other Negroes shall be permitted to reside in said Non-Trespass Zone.

"That this is ordered to preserve harmony and prevent possible bloodshed and riot. and with a view and hope that the City Council of Oklahoma City will immediately take steps to define an equitable, permanent section so that neither race shall trespass upon the rights or properties of the other, to the end that peace and harmony shall be maintained between the two races.

"It is further hoped and hereby made a proclamation in connection with this Executive Order that newspapers representing both sides and races will not indulge in what is properly called "yellow journalism," and that they will discuss these questions temperately, intelligently, in the light of a peaceful solution of the vexing problem of racial rights and harmony of association. I call upon them to remember that race hate and prejudice are not confined to one or two, but to every race of creation and is many centuries old, and that many of the wars of the past have grown out of these hatreds and prejudices, and that an intelligent discussion rather than abuse would eventually lead to a more harmonious association in our country, and would eventually lead to that desirable situation where mob violence insurrection would be no more.

"The Adjutant General of the State will hereby take notice that a Military Zone is hereby declared over all that section north of the segregated district hereinbefore termed 'Non-Trespass Zone,' for the purpose of enforcing this order; and, he, the Adjutant General, will maintain a watchful care over said zone, using military force, if necessary, to preserve this order, which is confined exclusively to the question hereinbefore recited; but shall not extend in any way to the social, political, economic, or business relations of the people, but solely to the question of preventing trespass, as before recited.

"This Military Zone is to be maintained until some further permanent solution of the problem is made by the City of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, or by the State, or by both.

"Given under my hand, with the Seal of the State caused to be attached hereto, at the Capitol, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on this the 1st day of May ,A. D., 1933.

By the Governor of the State of Oklahoma."